

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 7-19, 31-43, 53-59, 61-64, 67, 68, 70, 72, 74-81, 84, 86, 98-101 and 104 are pending, in which claims 6, 20-30, 35, 36, 47-52, 60, 73, 82, 83, 87-97, 102 and 103 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 7, 9, 10, 12, 74, 76, 77, 78, 84 and 86 are currently amended. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action mailed March 29, 2005 rejected claims 60 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by the newly-cited *Konishi* (US 6,101,010); claims 6-8, 10, 11, 47, 48 and 73-75 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Konishi* in view of *Shiragaki* (US 5,457,556); claims 27-30 and 94-97 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Konishi* in view of *Fatehi et al.* (US 5,892,606); claims 35, 36, 102 and 103 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Konishi* and *Fatehi et al.* in view of *Shiragaki*; and claims 20-26, 49-52, and 87-93 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over *Gerstel et al.* (US 5,867,289) in view of *Fee* (US 6,108,113). Claims 77, 84 and 86 are objected to because of various informalities.

Claims 9, 12-15, 76-81, 84 and 86 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 1, 3, 5, 16, 18, 19, 31-34, 37, 53-39, 61-64, 67, 68, 70, 72, 98-101 and 104 are allowed.

Regarding the objection of claim 77, 84 and 86, Applicants have amended the claims according to the Examiner's helpful suggestions.

To advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 6, 20-30, 35, 36, 47-52, 60, 73, 82, 83, 87-97, 102 and 103, and recast dependent claims 9, 12, 76, 77, 78, 84 and 85 in independent form.

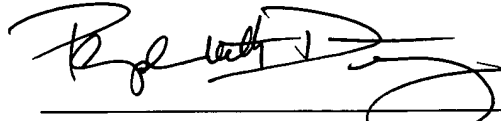
Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If

any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

DITTHAVONG & CARLSON, P.C.

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Date


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